Direction to STC to intervene to prop-up Rubber Prices

1442. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the STC to intervene in the market to prop-up rubber prices; and

(b) if so, the need and methodology contemplated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The STC in collaboration with the Kerala State Cooperative Rubber Marketing Federation has been making purchases of natural rubber as part of their commercial operations. In such commercial opearations, the methodology is decided by the Corporation only.

Export Inspection Council

1443. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the activities of the Export Inspection Council;

(b) what substantial work has been done by the Council in the recent past;

(c) whether the quality of export goods has improved because of the efforts of the Council; and if so, in what manner; and

(d) what steps will be taken to make the Council function more effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIH): (a) to (d) The main activities of the Export Inspection Council (EIC) are to advise the Central Government regarding measures for the enforcement of quality control and inspection in relation to commodities intended for export and to arrange pre-shipment inspection of notified commodities for export.

The main activities of the EIC in the recent past relate to the coverage of the commodities under the aegis of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act 1963, review of quality standards for exports; simplification and streamlining of compulsory pre-shipment procedures; provision of extension services through the Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) to the manufacturers and exporters for making them quality conscious while installing quality control drills, and upgrading the quality of the produce intended for exports; providing consultancy services for quality management systems such as ISO 9000 series and also on calibration of measuring equipment through the EIAs; and monitoring the quality inspection work being carried out by the EIAs and recognised private inspection agencies / fumigation agencies. As a result of these efforts there has been a steady improvement in the quality of goods exported from India. A continuous process of review; rationalisation in deployment of manpower; provision of in-service training to employees, continuous monitoring of approved processing units; and extension of technical expertise available in the EIAs to manufacturers and exporters for enabling them to upgrade their quality in conformity with international standards would be undertaken to make the Council function more effectively.

Benefits of Indo-Myanmar Trade Treaty

1444. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the Indo-Myanmar trade treaty after it has been started to be implemented in the commercial position of the two countires;

(b) whether it is a fact that the benefits of treaty have gone to the Myanmar people and it has greatly affected trade